

March, 1977, in Plymbridge Wood. Amy provided good evidence of the hardiness of this butterfly. It was interesting to note how she kept to a selected number of basking points, nearly all vertically faced white objects ranging from slabs to plastic fertilizer bags, and enjoying a sheltered micro climate. Apparently no post-hibernated females have been known to lay in this country, the males having long since succumbed, but on 11th November at Padstow, the writer watched a male and female basking together and briefly toying on the wing.

Incidentally, these observations arose indirectly from a successful attempt to see a separate (used once only) species of butterfly for each month of 1977, and which started with a Peacock (*Vanessa io* L.) drinking moisture from a rock face before fluttering back to the hibernation drain pipe on 28th January. On 15th December, a Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni* L.), Comma, and three Red Admirals were seen on the wing and basking, and a Small Tortoiseshell (*Aglais urticae* L.) had sunned on the 14th. So for those whose winters are full of gloom, there is more about than most books would lead us to believe!

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A FURTHER PLEA FOR "AUCTORUM". — Charles F. Cowan (89: 67) has provided a very sensible argument for retention of the general conventions in the literature for the use of "auctorum", and perhaps another historian and bibliographer of entomology may be allowed to offer a further opinion. Cowan has stated that "these conventions, perfectly clear and very convenient, have been internationally understood for centuries. We ought not to confuse the literature by changing them. If we do not like the conventions we should not use them".

Historically, this judgment is sound beyond doubt. Even the occasional Latinist will agree with Col. Cowan's doubts as to the precise linguistic accuracy of these past conventions, and I need not call attention to other slight mistakes in Latin still in general taxonomic usage. Yet, the sort of change which Col. Cowan fears would indeed seem needlessly confusing to many. Errors must be generally abhorred, but unless changed by fiat, let us continue in those *firmly* established traditions which have been assimilated into zoological Latin. — Dr. R. S. WILKINSON, The American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024.

CYCLOPHORA PUPPILLARIA (Hb.) IN BERKSHIRE. — A specimen of this uncommon migrant was taken on the night of 24th/25th October, 1977 in the Museum's light trap which is operated at Caversham, immediately north of the Thames at Reading. The specimen was of the pale type form. — B. R. BAKER, Museum and Art Gallery, Blagrove Street, Reading, Berkshire.